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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE**

10 MEMARY LAROCK, individually and on
11 behalf of all others similarly situated,

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

14 ZOOMINFO TECHNOLOGIES LLC,

15 Defendant.

Case No. 3:24-cv-05745-KKE

**ZOOMINFO TECHNOLOGIES LLC'S
MOTION TO DISMISS PURSUANT TO
FRCP 12**

NOTE ON MOTION CALENDAR:

December 16, 2024

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PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

ZoomInfo provides a database that gives customers access to a directory of business contact information—it is akin to “[t]he ‘yellow pages’ telephone directory [that] was once a ubiquitous part of American life, found in virtually every household and office.” *See Dex Media W., Inc. v. City of Seattle*, 696 F.3d 952, 953 (9th Cir. 2012). Plaintiff Memary LaRock sues based on the mere fact that her name and information—along with the information of millions of others—appear in ZoomInfo’s directory. Specifically, she contends it is actionable that visitors to ZoomInfo’s website can view her information before signing up for a paid subscription, by either viewing the publicly-available portions of ZoomInfo’s website or enrolling in a free trial that provides limited-time access to the entire ZoomInfo database.

Based on these benign “uses,” plaintiff asserts two claims under Washington’s Personality Rights Act, RCW §§ 63.60.010-63.60.080 (“WPRA”). However, the Washington legislature explicitly limited the statute to prevent the type of overreach plaintiff now attempts.

First, the WPRA exempts uses that accurately describe a party’s services. Here, the “uses” plaintiff challenges are *previews of the database ZoomInfo offers*. It is difficult to imagine a more apt example of a permitted use that “accurately describe[s] the goods or services of a party.”

Second, the WPRA does not prohibit any mention of a person’s name in connection with commercial activities, as plaintiff’s theory assumes. To the contrary, the WPRA expressly permits such use provided it is “insignificant, de minimis, or incidental.” Here, plaintiff concedes her name and contact information are commingled with entries for “**209 million**” other people, and further that her information will appear only if a user expressly searches for it. Plaintiff (a non-celebrity or public figure) does not contend her information has any particular value or significance to ZoomInfo’s directory—instead, the value of ZoomInfo’s database lies in its *aggregation* of information and the business insights it can provide. Plaintiff is the proverbial “needle in the haystack,” and the alleged use is thus exempt from the WPRA as incidental. Her claims fail as a matter of law.

1 **BACKGROUND AND MATERIAL ALLEGATIONS IN PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT**

2 ZoomInfo operates an online platform that offers business-development tools. Compl. at
 3 ¶ 2. The platform includes a searchable database with professional contact information—name;
 4 company name and description; company phone number; work email; job title; and company
 5 address—for millions of professionals. *See* ZoomInfo.com; Compl. at ¶¶ 21, 128 (alleging the
 6 “database provides access to over 209 million professional profiles”). As plaintiff recognizes,
 7 the value of ZoomInfo’s database results from its “collection” of information, which can be used
 8 “to provide effective insights” to ZoomInfo’s users (*id.* at ¶ 21)—for example, “[s]ourcing
 9 intelligence” on potential job candidates for a company looking to fill a role, or generating
 10 information about a company’s “buying intent signals” to help optimize sales (*id.* at ¶ 22).

11 Although plaintiff alleges her name and business contact information appear within
 12 ZoomInfo’s database, she also acknowledges this information is not “featured” in any way on
 13 ZoomInfo’s site. She instead concedes this information is displayed only if ZoomInfo’s users
 14 ***affirmatively search*** for plaintiff by name or otherwise happen upon it in conducting research on
 15 a particular job role or industry. *See, e.g., id.* at ¶ 38 (alleging links to the publicly-accessible
 16 page with her information might appear “in the results of search queries for the names of the
 17 persons to whom the profiles correspond”); ¶ 60 (alleging ZoomInfo displays “the names and
 18 personally identifying information of Plaintiff and millions of other Americans in response to
 19 search queries performed by non-subscribers using the ‘free search’ tool on its website”); ¶ 80
 20 (alleging the “free trial” “permits the prospective customer to search for and obtain the
 21 personally identifying information of millions of Americans”); ¶¶ 60-61 (alleging “a search for
 22 Accountants in New York City returns 50,642 contacts”). Plaintiff does not contend her name
 23 and information have any independent value; rather she contends the only purported “value”
 24 associated with her name derives from its alleged “use” on ZoomInfo’s website. *Id.* at ¶ 71.

1 Plaintiff's complaint takes aim at two particular "uses" of her information. *First*,
 2 plaintiff alleges visitors to ZoomInfo can view "free-preview profiles" that contain limited
 3 previews of the information from ZoomInfo's database:

The screenshot shows a ZoomInfo profile page for Memory LaRock. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Products, Top Companies, Our Data, Industries, Pricing, Search, Log In, Contact Sales, and Sign Up. The main content area displays Memory LaRock's profile, including her name, title (Administrative Assistant at Miller Sheetmetal), and a "View Contact Info for Free" button. Below this, there are sections for "Memory LaRock Email & Phone number" and "Memory LaRock Current Workplace". The workplace section lists the company as Miller Sheetmetal, address as 1642 Navy Yard Hwy, Bremerton, Washington, 98312, United States, phone number as (360) 479-1737, and industry as Commercial & Residential. To the right, there is a "You're signed out" message with a "Join now" button. At the bottom, there are links for About, Company, Org Chart, News & Media, and Similar Profiles. A sidebar on the right shows a colleague profile for Rick Abilit.

15 *Id.* at ¶¶ 4-5, 31.

16 *Second*, plaintiff alleges ZoomInfo offers two "free trials." *See, e.g., id.* at ¶ 74. The
 17 first type of "free trial" provides access to the "entire" ZoomInfo database for a limited period of
 18 time. *Id.* at ¶ 75. The second offers users a limited number of credits to access the site. *See,*
 19 *e.g., id.* at ¶¶ 86, 91.

20 Plaintiff does not allege any wrongful "use" of her name or information other than in
 21 descriptions of ZoomInfo's site (*i.e.*, the platform plaintiff asserts her name is being used to
 22 advertise). *See, e.g., id.* at ¶ 31 (screenshot featuring information about plaintiff's employer and
 23 her role at the company, available to any visitor to ZoomInfo's site who searches plaintiff's
 24 name); ¶ 40 (describing how "ZoomInfo Copilot" can be used to understand information about
 25 businesspeople, including plaintiff); ¶ 61 (screenshot displaying how lists of names might be
 26 turned up in response to a search for certain "industry" and "job title" parameters); ¶ 97
 27 (screenshot from ZoomInfo's site featuring information about plaintiff's employer and her role at

1 the company, accessible to free-trial users who are given limited-time access to ZoomInfo's full
 2 database). *See also id.* at ¶ 101 (describing ZoomInfo's "Chorus" service without any reference
 3 to plaintiff's name).

4 Based on these alleged uses, plaintiff asserts two claims for relief, each based in the
 5 WPRA. *Id.* at ¶¶ 124-152. The first claim is based on ZoomInfo's "free-preview profile" pages.
 6 *Id.* at ¶ 128. The second claim is premised on ZoomInfo's free trials. *Id.* at ¶ 143.

7 LEGAL STANDARD

8 To survive a motion to dismiss, a complaint must contain "sufficient factual matter" to
 9 state a claim for relief that is "plausible" on its face. *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009).
 10 A claim is plausible when factual allegations permit the "reasonable inference" that the
 11 defendant is liable for the conduct alleged. *Id.* "Threadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of
 12 action, supported by mere conclusory statements, do not suffice." *Id.* Facts that are "merely
 13 consistent with" liability fail to state a claim. *Id.* (quotations omitted).

14 ARGUMENT

15 I. PLAINTIFF'S "RIGHT OF PUBLICITY" CLAIMS FAIL BECAUSE THE 16 CHALLENGED USE ACCURATELY DESCRIBES ZOOMINFO'S SERVICES

17 Washington recognizes a limited statutory "right of publicity." WASH. REV. CODE §
 18 63.60.010. The statute also includes express exemptions. Revised Code of Washington §
 19 63.60.070, titled "Exemptions from use restrictions—When chapter does not apply," states:

20 This chapter does not apply to a use or authorization of use of an
 21 individual's or personality's name that is merely descriptive and used
 22 fairly and in good faith only to . . . ***accurately describe the goods or***
services of a party.

23 WASH. REV. CODE § 63.60.070(5) (2024) (emphasis added). Here, the uses plaintiff
 24 challenges fall precisely within this "accurate description" exemption and thus constitute
 25 permitted uses.

26 The sole function of the alleged uses of plaintiff's name is to describe the contents of
 27 ZoomInfo's database. Compl. at ¶¶ 31, 40, 61, 97. In the case of the "free preview profile," the
 content is a free, partial view of the information on ZoomInfo's site that is available to

1 subscribers. *Id.* at ¶ 31. The same is true of the challenged “free trials,” which give users access
 2 to ZoomInfo’s “entire database.” *Id.* at ¶¶ 75, 97. And the remaining alleged “uses” in the
 3 Complaint simply describe how ZoomInfo’s database works—whether the ability to generate a
 4 list of names in response to searches of certain “job titles” or “industries” (*id.* at ¶ 61) or an
 5 accurate description of the features of ZoomInfo’s “Copilot” service (*id.* at ¶ 40). It is difficult to
 6 envision a more straightforward way to “accurately describe the goods or services of a party”
 7 than to *provide access to those very goods and services.*¹ Cf. *Charisma Hudson, et al. v.*
 8 *Datanyze, LLC*, 702 F. Supp. 3d 628, 634 (N.D. Ohio 2023), *appeal docketed*, No. 23-3998 (6th
 9 Cir. Dec. 14, 2023) (“Under Plaintiffs’ theory, Datanyze can sell its product, just not give it away
 10 for free. . . . The Court agrees that this result would be paradoxical.”) (quotation omitted).

11 The Court need not look beyond the plain language of the legislature’s exemption to
 12 dismiss plaintiff’s claims. However, to the extent analogies to other intellectual property rights
 13 are instructive—and because no court has previously interpreted this WPRA exemption—case
 14 law interpreting the Lanham Act’s analogous provision concerning descriptive fair use provides
 15 further reasoning that supports application of the WPRA’s exemption here. See *Landham v.*
 16 *Lewis Galoob Toys, Inc.*, 227 F.3d 619, 622-23 (6th Cir. 2000) (courts often turn to intellectual
 17 property law for guidance in right-of-publicity cases because “case law on this right is
 18 exceedingly rare”).

19 Just as the WPRA permits uses of individuals’ names to describe the contents of goods or
 20 services, the Lanham Act—which governs trademarks—provides a defense to an infringement
 21 claim where “the use of the [trademarked] name . . . is a use . . . which is descriptive of and used
 22 fairly and in good faith only to describe the goods or services of such party.” See 15 U.S.C. §
 23 1115(b)(4). The Lanham Act’s “fair use” defense is interpreted in a “broad sense.” *Solid 21,*
 24 *Inc. v. Breitling U.S.A., Inc.*, 96 F.4th 265, 276 (2d Cir. 2024) (internal quotations omitted).
 25 Courts look to whether the use (1) does not try to capitalize on the value of another’s trademark;
 26

27 ¹ No allegations of bad faith are or could plausibly be at issue here.

1 (2) is descriptive in nature; and (3) occurred in good faith. *See, e.g., JBCHoldings NY, LLC v.*
 2 *Pakter*, 931 F. Supp. 2d 514, 531 (S.D.N.Y. 2013). Here—as applicable to plaintiff’s name—all
 3 three considerations make clear the challenged use is merely descriptive.

4 *First*, in the trademark context, courts examine whether the defendant is attempting to
 5 trade on its association with another’s mark. *Id.* (quotation, citation omitted) (considering
 6 whether use is “as a mark,” and noting that when the use “is accompanied by a defendant’s own,
 7 conspicuously visible mark,”—*i.e.*, the defendant is not trying to trade on its association with
 8 another’s mark—“this generally does not constitute trademark use.”). In *JBCHoldings*, for
 9 example, the defendant had used the plaintiff’s mark in messages to clients. 931 F. Supp. 2d at
 10 531. However, because “[t]here was no way for [the defendant] to inform her clients that the
 11 services she would be providing would include the assistance of [the plaintiff] without invoking
 12 [the plaintiff’s] name,” the court concluded use of the plaintiff’s name was “otherwise than as a
 13 mark.” *Id.*

14 So too here. Plaintiff does not allege ZoomInfo is attempting to trade on some value
 15 associated with her—for example, through representations that plaintiff uses or endorses
 16 ZoomInfo’s database. Indeed, plaintiff does not claim any “value” associated with her name
 17 other than as a result of its alleged use as part of ZoomInfo’s database. Compl. at ¶ 71. She
 18 instead alleges only that ZoomInfo accurately presents her information to describe the database
 19 ZoomInfo offers.

20 *Second*, a use is “descriptive” when it is “used to describe characteristics of goods.” *Id.*
 21 In *Hensley Mfg. v. ProPride, Inc.*, for example, the court determined use of the plaintiff’s mark
 22 was permissibly “descriptive” where the defendant used the plaintiff’s name “to identify him as a
 23 designer of trailer hitches . . . describe his relationship to [the defendant], and tell the story
 24 behind [the plaintiff’s] success.” 579 F.3d 603, 612 (6th Cir. 2009).

25 Here, there likewise can be no meaningful dispute on this point. Every alleged use
 26 plaintiff challenges is nothing more than a description of ZoomInfo’s database—her claims are
 27 based on previews of the content available on ZoomInfo’s site and descriptions of its

1 functionality. As in *Hensley*, the alleged “uses” of plaintiff’s name are merely a part of the
 2 description.

3 *Finally*, plaintiff has not alleged an absence of “good faith.” Nor could she. Plaintiff
 4 does not allege the information is inaccurate, and she concedes ZoomInfo’s presentation of her
 5 information is part of a “preview” or “free trial” access to its site. When a defendant’s use is in
 6 an accurate, descriptive sense, rather than trading on the value of another’s mark, courts use
 7 those factors as evidence of good faith. *Solid 21, Inc.*, 96 F.4th at 279 (“[O]ur good faith
 8 analysis often travels together with descriptiveness. . . . We think it rare that a defendant who
 9 uses a descriptive term only to describe its products, and not as a trademark, will nevertheless
 10 intend[] to sow confusion between the two companies’ products.”) (quotation, citation omitted).

11 Because the challenged uses indisputably provide an accurate description of the database
 12 ZoomInfo offers, plaintiff’s claims fall within this statutory exemption and should be dismissed.

13 **II. PLAINTIFF’S “RIGHT OF PUBLICITY” CLAIMS INDEPENDENTLY FAIL
 14 BECAUSE THE CHALLENGED USE IS INCIDENTAL**

15 The WPRA does not apply “to the use of an individual’s or personality’s name” that “is
 16 an *insignificant, de minimis, or incidental use.*” WASH. REV. CODE § 63.60.070(6) (2024)
 17 (emphasis added).

18 Because no court has interpreted this provision of Washington’s law, cases interpreting
 19 similar provisions in other states’ right of publicity laws provide guidance. *See, e.g., ETW Corp.*
 20 *v. Jireh Pub., Inc.*, 332 F.3d 915, 936 (6th Cir. 2003) (looking to out-of-circuit cases considering
 21 other states’ right of publicity laws when analyzing right of publicity claim). Additionally, “[t]he
 22 commercial appropriation right of privacy . . . is similar . . . to the right of publicity,” *Allison v.*
 23 *Vintage Sports Plaques*, 136 F.3d 1443, 1446 (11th Cir. 1998), and has a well-rooted incidental
 24 use exception that can provide guidance, *see* RESTATEMENT (SECOND) OF TORTS § 652C cmt. d
 25 (AM. LAW INST. 1977).

26 Courts consider various factors in deciding whether a use is “incidental.” *Aligo v. Time-*
 27 *Life Books, Inc.*, 1994 WL 715605, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 19, 1994). Those considerations

1 include: (1) whether the use has a unique quality or value that would result in commercial profit
 2 to the defendant; (2) whether the use contributes something of significance; and (3) the duration,
 3 prominence or repetition of the name or likeness relative to the rest of the publication. *Id.* See
 4 also RESTATEMENT (SECOND) OF TORTS § 652C cmt. d (AM. LAW INST. 1977) (“The value of the
 5 plaintiff’s name is not appropriated by mere mention of it.”). Here, each factor demonstrates the
 6 alleged use is incidental.

7 *First*, when a name or likeness is used “for purposes other than taking advantage of”
 8 one’s “reputation, prestige, or other value,” the use is incidental. *Balsley v. LFP, Inc.*, 2010 WL
 9 11561844, at *9 (N.D. Ohio Jan. 26, 2010) (finding incidental use because inclusion of
 10 photograph in magazine was not used to show plaintiff’s endorsement of the magazine). In *Vinci*
 11 *v. Am. Can Co.*, for example, the plaintiff (an Olympic gold medalist) asserted a right of
 12 publicity claim based on use of his name and likeness on promotional drinking cups. 591 N.E.2d
 13 793, 794 (Ohio 1990). In rejecting the plaintiff’s claims, the court held that “[i]t is only when
 14 the publicity is given for the purpose of appropriating to the defendant’s benefit the commercial
 15 or other values associated with the name or the likeness that the right of privacy is invaded.” *Id.*
 16 (cleaned up). Because there was “no implication that the athletes used, supported, or promoted
 17 the product,” the plaintiff’s claim failed. *Id.*

18 Similarly, in *Hudson v. Datanyze, LLC*, the plaintiff asserted a right of publicity claim
 19 based on the alleged inclusion of her name, email address, direct dial number, and other
 20 information in a “subscription-based directory of sales and marketing professionals” involving
 21 over 120 million people’s information. 702 F. Supp. 3d 628, 630, 634 (N.D. Ohio 2023), *appeal*
 22 *docketed*, No. 23-3998 (6th Cir. Dec. 14, 2023). The court found the use was “incidental.” *Id.*
 23 “The publication of Plaintiffs’ information, with no implication that they use, support, or
 24 promote the product, in Defendant’s database, which purportedly contains 120 million profiles,”
 25 was an incidental use. *Id.* at 634.

26 Other courts have similarly applied these same principles. *See, e.g., Harvey v. Sys.*
 27 *Effect, LLC*, 154 N.E.3d 293, 306 (Ohio 2020) (rejecting right of publicity claim where plaintiff

1 “failed to present any evidence that her name had significant value or, indeed, any commercial
 2 value”); *Roe v. Amazon.com*, 714 F. App’x 565, 568 (6th Cir. 2017) (plaintiff must “demonstrate
 3 that there is value in associating an item of commerce with [their] identity”); *McFarland v.
 4 Miller*, 14 F.3d 912, 919–20 (3d Cir. 1994) (“At its heart, the value of the right of publicity is
 5 associational. People link the person with the items the person endorses and, if that person is
 6 famous, that link has value.”); *Schifano v. Greene County Greyhound Park, Inc.*, 624 So. 2d 178,
 7 181 (Ala. 1993) (affirming summary judgment in favor of the defendant and distinguishing past
 8 case involving use of former college football star).

9 Here, plaintiff does not allege her name has any “reputation, prestige, or other value” that
 10 ZoomInfo is using to its advantage. To the contrary, the only alleged “value” purportedly results
 11 from *ZoomInfo*’s use of her name. Compl. at ¶ 71. It cannot be that *ZoomInfo* is taking
 12 advantage of any “prestige” or “value” associated with plaintiff when it is *ZoomInfo*’s use that
 13 allegedly confers that value. *See, e.g., Hudson*, 2023 WL 8004715 at *4 (“[D]eliberate use of an
 14 individual’s likeness by a defendant **does not** automatically confer value upon it.”). And
 15 plaintiff’s allegations otherwise make clear the value of *ZoomInfo*’s database does not lie in *her*
 16 information—it is instead the aggregation of *millions* of business contacts and the insights that
 17 aggregation can provide that give *ZoomInfo* its value. *See, e.g.,* Compl. at ¶ 21.

18 Plaintiff’s situation is thus entirely distinct from those where courts have found a
 19 plaintiff’s name or image had unique value. For example, in *Yeager v. Cingular Wireless LLC*,
 20 unlike here, the plaintiff’s “name and identity [were] unique and non-fungible in that he is the
 21 person associated with breaking the sound barrier for the first time.” 673 F. Supp. 2d 1089, 1101
 22 (E.D. Cal. 2009). Likewise, in *Pooley v. National Hole-In-One Ass’n*, the plaintiff was “a person
 23 who made a million dollars for a hole-in-one,” and without use of his footage, the defendant’s
 24 “‘Million Dollar Hole-in-One Shootout’ would not have been very attractive to many golfers.”
 25 89 F. Supp. 2d 1108, 1112–13 (D. Ariz. 2000). Similarly, in *Davis v. Electronic Arts Inc.*, the
 26 defendant had paid millions of dollars to replicate college athletes in simulated versions of
 27 themselves, which added unique value to the defendant’s product. 775 F.3d 1772, 1180–81 (9th

1 Cir. 2015). And in *Upper Deck Company v. Flores*, the defendant had produced a trading card
 2 with *Michael Jordan*'s name, image, and autograph on both sides. 569 F. Supp. 3d 1050, 1069-
 3 70 (S.D. Cal. 2021). Plaintiff here cannot allege anything remotely similar.

4 **Second**, plaintiff's name does not "contribute something of significance" to ZoomInfo's
 5 database—in fact, her allegations demonstrate the *opposite*. Plaintiff alleges her information is
 6 one in **209 million**, and even then it is available only where a user affirmatively seeks it out.
 7 Courts have found use to be "incidental" based on far more significant inclusions. In *Bogie v.*
 8 *Rosenberg*, for example, the plaintiff asserted a right of publicity claim based on a "16-second
 9 clip in an hour and twenty-four-minute documentary." 2012 WL 12995704, at *9 (W.D. Wis.
 10 Mar. 16, 2012). The court correctly determined that "no reasonable jury could find that this
 11 [use] is a non-incidental use of [plaintiff's] image for a commercial purpose." *Id.*

12 Further, courts have correctly recognized that publishing information on a platform—
 13 which is all that plaintiff has alleged here—is *not* a significant contribution. *See Stayart v.*
 14 *Google Inc.*, 2011 WL 13160131, at *1-2 (E.D. Wis. Aug. 17, 2011), *aff'd*, 710 F.3d 719 (7th
 15 Cir. 2013) ("The fact that a defendant . . . makes a profit from the business of publication or
 16 supports its business with advertising is not enough to make the incidental use of a name a
 17 commercial use.").

18 For example, the Seventh Circuit held that Amazon's use of book covers and publisher
 19 descriptions to sell books was "incidental" because the court could "discern no set of facts by
 20 which an internet retailer such as Amazon, which functions as the internet equivalent to a
 21 traditional bookseller, would be liable for displaying content that is incidental to book sales, such
 22 as providing customers with access to a book's cover image and a publisher's description of the
 23 book's content." *Almeida v. Amazon.com, Inc.*, 456 F. 3d 1316, 1326 (11th Cir. 2006).

24 Here, ZoomInfo purportedly used plaintiff's business contact information amidst millions
 25 of similar records. Plaintiff's record has no "significance," and ZoomInfo's alleged use is
 26 plainly incidental.

1 **Finally**, the alleged use is minimal in duration, prominence and repetition relative to the
 2 rest of ZoomInfo's database. District courts evaluate the use in context of the entire publication
 3 to determine whether the use is incidental. *Aligo*, 1994 WL 715605, at *3. For example, in
 4 *Aligo v. Time-Life Books, Inc.*, the court found the defendant's four-second use of the plaintiff's
 5 photograph in a 29-minute infomercial was incidental as a matter of law. *Id.* at *4. Other courts
 6 have consistently reached similar conclusions, finding the use incidental where, for example:

- 7 • The use occurred in a book containing the names of 101 people. *Ladany v. William*
 Morrow & Co., Inc.
- 8 • 465 F. Supp. 870, 881-82 (S.D.N.Y. 1978);
- 9 • The plaintiff made a 9-second appearance in a motion picture. *Preston v. Martin*
 Bregman Productions, Inc.
- 10 • 765 F. Supp. 116, 118-19 (S.D.N.Y. 1991);
- 11 • An advertisement depicted the names, photographs, and quotations of six different
 authors. *Groden v. Random House, Inc.*, 61 F.3d 1045, 1048, 1051 (2d Cir. 1995);
- 12 • The plaintiff's name was used 1 time in 1 line of a song with 104 lines. *Lohan v. Perez*, 924 F. Supp. 2d 447, 455 (E.D.N.Y. 2013);
- 13 • The plaintiff's name was used in 1 of 116 panels in a 24-page comic book. *Netzer v. Continuity Graphic Associates, Inc.*, 963 F. Supp. 1308, 1326 (S.D.N.Y. 1997);
- 14 • The plaintiff was depicted for 1.5 seconds in a movie trailer. *Lindholm v. Gibney*,
 2006 WL 8451489, at *9 (S.D. Tex. Sept. 12, 2006); and
- 15 • The plaintiff's name was used once in a 33-minute interview. *Torain v. Casey*, 2016
 WL 6780078, at *4 (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 16, 2016).

21 Similarly here, plaintiff's complaint hinges on a single database entry out of **millions**.

22 Compl. ¶ 9. Courts have found incidental uses with uses of much greater duration, prominence
 23 and repetition.²

24

25 ² A contrary outcome under the incidental use exception would also give rise to serious First
 26 Amendment issues. The incidental use exception is intended to avoid conflicts between the right
 27 of publicity and free speech rights—as courts have recognized, “allowing anyone briefly
 depicted or referred to for commercial purposes [to sue] would unduly burden expressive
 activity.” *Aligo v. Time-Life Books, Inc.*, 1994 WL 715605, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 19,
 1994). Were plaintiff correct that the WPRA applies on the facts alleged (she is not for the
 reasons shown above), the statute would infringe on ZoomInfo's First Amendment right to free

1 Accordingly, the Court should find the WPRA's incidental use exception, RCW §
 2 63.60.070(6), applies to ZoomInfo's use and requires dismissal of plaintiff's claims.

3 **CONCLUSION**

4 For the reasons shown above, the Court should dismiss plaintiff's complaint in its
 5 entirety.

6 DATED: November 1, 2024
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25 speech. Indeed, courts have repeatedly held that directories of names, phone numbers, and job
 26 details—like a phone book or ZoomInfo's platform—are “noncommercial speech,” and thus
 27 receive fulsome protection under the First Amendment that would prohibit a lawsuit such as
 28 this. *See, e.g., Dex Media W., Inc. v. City of Seattle*, 696 F.3d 952, 957 (9th Cir.
 29 2012). However, it is an “elementary rule” that “every reasonable construction must be resorted
 30 to, in order to save a statute from unconstitutionality.” *Valenzuela Gallardo v. Lynch*, 818 F.3d
 31 808, 817 (9th Cir. 2016). As shown above, the incidental use exception applies here and must be
 32 interpreted to avoid this concern.

1 **WORD COUNT**

2 I certify that this memorandum contains 4,014 words, in compliance with the Local Civil
3 Rules.

4 DATED this 1st day of November, 2024.

5
6 */s/ Alicia Cobb*
7 Alicia Cobb, WSBA #48685
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1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

2 I hereby certify that on November 1, 2024, I caused a true and correct copy of the
3 foregoing to be filed in this Court's CM/ECF system, which sent notification of such filing to
4 counsel of record.

5 DATED this 1st day of November, 2024.

6
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